

**PATENT**  
**Docket No. 12013/60801**

#15/B  
4/12/03  
Tenn

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

APPLICANTS : S. LARSON, et al.  
SERIAL NO. : 09/635,083  
FILED : August 8, 2000  
FOR : CATHETER SHAFT ASSEMBLY  
GROUP ART UNIT : 3762  
EXAMINER : LoAn H. Thanh

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER  
FOR PATENTS  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**

S I R:

The undersigned submits this Response as a reply to the May 22, 2002, Office Action, which set a three-month shortened statutory period of response extending to and including August 22, 2002.

The undersigned authorizes the Director to charge deposit account no. 11-0600 for any fee associated with examination of this paper and to credit the same account with any applicable overpayment.

Prior to further examination on the merits, the undersigned requests that the following changes be made to the application.

**IN THE SPECIFICATION**

Please delete the title "Related Applications" and the paragraph directly beneath it, which begins on page 1 line 3 and ends on page 1 line 7.

Replace the last paragraph on page 10, beginning at line 16 and continuing onto page 11 ending at line 2, with the following paragraph.